

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with attorney of record Thomas McKiernan (Reg. No 37,889) on January 14, 2011.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

a) In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An E-mail management system for managing a forward destination of an E-mail, the E-mail management system including a processor, the processor programmed to execute:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

providing a user with information representing response steps for responding to the test E-mail according to a designation, where the user is within a predetermined range;

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending the

test mail to the forward destination address and receiving the response to the test mail; ~~and~~

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the designation;

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address if the confirmation proved successful;

forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered;

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range; and

registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

3. (currently amended) [[An]] The E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further programmed to execute: commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and

communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail, wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor configured to communicate with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

6. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail management system according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

7. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and confirming responses to these two test mails.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further programmed to execute notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

10. (currently amended) An E-mail management system according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, the processor further programmed to execute:

conforming a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, and suspending the forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

11. (previously presented) [[An]] The E-mail management system according to claim 5, the processor further programmed to execute: receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and

confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

14. (currently amended) An E-mail management system cooperating with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said system comprising a processor programmed to execute:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

~~showing a~~ proving a user with information representing response steps for responding ~~procedure of how to respond to a~~ the test E-mail according to a designation, ~~to a~~ where the user ~~who~~ is within a predetermined range;

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded; and

wherein the confirming includes sending the test mail and making a validity of the forward destination address confirmed by the response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response conforms with the designation;

wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

the processor further programmed to execute:

receiving a request for confirming an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and

issuing a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) ~~[[An]] The~~ E-mail management system according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 14, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

18. (currently amended) ~~[[An]] The~~ E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively

to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

19. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

22. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

23-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

~~showing a~~ providing a user with information representing response steps ~~for responding procedure of how to respond to a~~ the test E-mail according designation ~~to a, where the user who~~ is within a predetermined range; ~~and~~ executing, using a processor, a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending the test mail to the forward destination address and receiving the response to the test mail;

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the designation;

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful;

forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered;

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range, and

registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

29. (currently amended) [[An]] The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:

commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and

communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail, wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising communicating with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the Email, and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

32. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim ~~[[28]]~~ 27, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

33. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address and confirming responses to these two test mails.

34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

36. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim ~~[[30]]~~ 27, further comprising executing a

confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, wherein said forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

37. (currently amended) [[An]] The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 31, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address; and

confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

40. (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said method comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

~~showing a~~ providing a user with information representing response steps for responding procedure of how to respond to a the test E-mail according to a designation, ~~to a~~ where the user ~~who~~ is within a predetermined range;

issuing to a mail server, using a processor, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded; and

sending the test mail to the forward destination;

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by the response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response conforms with the designation;

wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, further comprising: receiving a request for confirming an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

42. (cancelled)

43. (currently amended) [[An]] The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim [[42]] 40, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

44. (currently amended) [[An]] The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address

is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

45. (cancelled)

46. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

47. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

48. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

49-52. (cancelled)

53. (currently amended) A non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable instructions executable by a processor to perform operations to manage a forward destination of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address, said operations comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address
corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail;

~~showing a~~ providing a user with information representing response steps
for responding procedure of how to respond to a the test E-mail according to a
designation, ~~to a where the user who~~ is within a predetermined range;

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to
which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending the
test mail to the forward destination address; ~~and~~

receiving the response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response
conforms with the designation;

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt
address when the confirmation proved successful;

forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the
forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding
to the receipt address is registered;

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to
said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a
predetermined range; and

registering a forward destination address with respect to which the
confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the
forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

55. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 53, wherein the operations
further include:

commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward
destination address, and

communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test
mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward
destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

56. (cancelled)

57. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 53, wherein the operations
further include commanding a mail server which registers the forward destination
address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards a
received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination
address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination
address if the confirmation proved successful.

58. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim [[54]] 53, wherein said
confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from
the receipt address.

59. (currently amended) [(A)] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 53, wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address and confirming responses to these two test mails.

61. (currently amended) [(A)] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 53, wherein the operations further include notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

62. (currently amended) [(A)] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim ~~[[56]]~~ 53, wherein the operations further include executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

63. (currently amended) [(A)] The non-transitory recording medium
readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 57, wherein the operations further include:

receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address; and

confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

66. (currently amended) A non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable instructions executable by a-processor to perform operations to manage a forward destination of an E-mail in-cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address-corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards a received E-mail-addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said operations comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

~~showing a~~ providing a user with information representing response steps ~~for responding procedure of how to respond to a~~ the test E-mail according to a designation, ~~to a~~ where the user ~~who~~ is within a predetermined range; and

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded;

sending the test mail to the forward destination;

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by the response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response conforms with the designation;

wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address,

further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

68. (cancelled)

69. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim [[68]] 66, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

70. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 66, wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

71. (cancelled)

72. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 66, further comprising

disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

73. (previously presented) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 53, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

74. (currently amended) [[A]] The non-transitory recording medium readable-by-computer ~~recording medium~~ of claim 66, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

75-104. (canceled)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 27, 29, 31-33, 35-37, 40, 43, 44, 46-48, 53, 55, 57-59, 61-63, 66, 69, 70 and 72-74 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The examiner had found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious "executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending the test mail to the forward destination address and receiving the response to the test mail; wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the designation;

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address if the confirmation proved successful; forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered; registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range; and registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range " as in claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 27, 29, 31-33, 35-37, 40, 43, 44, 46-48, 53,55, 57-59, 61-63, 66, 69, 70 and 72-74. Therefore, the prior art of record alone or in combination do not teach the incorporated limitations taken in context of the claims

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance or Examiner Amendment."
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached at 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll -free).

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